Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a plurality of audio modules[[,]]:

at least one module of the plurality of audio modules including at least one audio output transducer and at least one audio input transducer that directly detects human audible sound directly associated with each of the plurality of audio modules;

a common control unit in communication with the plurality of audio modules;

a plurality of stored fire signatures associated with the common control unit where each stored fire signature identifies a different type of fire;

an output device coupled to the control unit, the control unit presents at least audio information received at various of the modules, via the output device, with the presented audio indicative of the presence of individuals and selected environmental conditions in the vicinity of the respective module; and

which includes at least one of circuitry or software to associated with the common control unit that automatically compares human audible sound directly detected by the audio input transducers of characteristic sounds emitted by a fire and received at the control unit with at least one the plurality of fire signatures, to establish that a fire is present in the vicinity of at least one of the modules by matching the human audible sound with at least one of the plurality of fire detection signatures.

2.   (Original) A system as in claim 1 which includes an audio input device, at the control unit for transmitting audio messages to be output by transducers in at least some of the audio modules.

3-5.   (Canceled).

6.   (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 1 which includes at least one of circuitry or software to identify the at least one audio input transducer.

7.   (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 1 which includes at least one of circuitry or software to filter fire related noise if combined with voice.

8.   (Previously Amended) A system as in claim 1 which includes speech recognition software for processing received audio.

9.   (Previously Amended) A system as in claim 1 where at least some of the plurality of modules include thermal sensors.

10.   (Previously Amended) A system as in claim 9 including software for processing thermal related signals received from at least some of the thermal sensors of the plurality of modules.

11.   (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring a region comprising:

directly sensing human audible sounds via a respective microphones from spaced apart locations in the region;

automatically analyzing the sensed human audible sounds by comparing the sensed human audible sounds with a plurality of stored signatures of a fire where each stored signature identifies a different type of fire;

matching the sensed human audible sounds from at least one of the respective microphones with one of the plurality of stored signatures; and

responsive to recognizing an audio fire signature of characteristic sounds emitted by a fire

by matching the sensed human audible sound from the at least one microphone with the one of the plurality of stored signatures, displaying a location[[s]] of origination ~~therefore~~ thereof.

12-13. (Canceled).

14. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 11 which includes recognizing sounds of individuals at one or more locations in the regions.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Original) A method as in claim 11 which includes suppressing fire sounds from at least some of the sensed audio signals in order to more effectively recognize other sources of sound.

17-24. (Canceled).

25. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
a plurality of audio input transducers that each directly detects human audible sound;
at least one audio output transducer;
a control unit in communication with the output transducer and the plurality of input transducers the control unit contains a plurality of audio signatures of fires where each of the plurality of audio signatures identifies a different type of fire, the control unit compares the directly detected human audible sound with the audio signatures to detect a fire;
a user interface device coupled to the control unit; and
the control unit presents at least location related audio information, received at various input transducers, via the interface device with the presented audio indicative of the presence of individuals or certain environmental conditions including at least the detected fire in the vicinity of the respective module.

26.   (Canceled).

27.   (Original) A system as in claim 25 where the control unit uniquely identifies each of the audio input transducers.

28.   (Original) A system as in claim 25 where the control unit suppresses fire sounds in order to more effectively detect human voice.

29.   (Original) A system as in claim 25 which includes speech recognition software for processing received audio.

30-33. (Canceled).